St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School

We act with love, build our faith and grow as people

"Let all that you do be done in love" - 1 Corinthians 16:14

Newsletter 23rd October 2026

A message from the Headteacher - Mrs Mulholland

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of an exceptionally busy and rewarding half-term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible few weeks we have shared at St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School. From outstanding achievements within our walls to inspiring educational journeys beyond them, our children have consistently demonstrated our core values of love, faith, and growth.

We are absolutely thrilled and immensely proud to share that our Nursery team had an incredibly postive visit from OFSTED on Tuesday. This recognition is a testament to the team's tireless dedication, care, and passion for giving our youngest learners the absolute best start to their education.
The official report will be available soon, and we will be incredibly proud to share it with our entire school community just as soon as we are formally allowed to release it. Please join me in congratulating our wonderful nursery staff!

Our spiritual life has been beautifully enriched over the past few weeks. We were blessed with a wonderful visit from Mrs Sawyers from CAFOD, who joined us for our Harvest celebrations. She spoke to the children about global solidarity and how our efforts can change lives, which perfectly complemented our local charity work.

In tandem with our Harvest focus, our School Council student leaders, Clara and Jason, visited the Bracknell Foodbank to deliver our community's harvest collections.
Driven by the core values of Catholic Social Teaching, they packed and delivered an overwhelming amount of donations, completely filling multiple shopping trolleys and heavy bags with essential provisions for local families in crisis. During a personal tour of the facility, Clara and Jason learned exactly how these small acts of charity turn into big kindness for our neighbors. Thank you all for your immense generosity!

Our commitment to providing both amazing classroom learning and excellent external experiences has been on full display with two unforgettable school trips this half-term:

- Houses of Parliament: Our older pupils took an inspiring trip to London, exploring the historic halls of Westminster, learning about British values, and discovering how democracy shapes our laws.
- Chiltern Open Air Museum: Our children stepped back in time during a fantastic hands-on history trip, exploring reconstructed historic buildings and experiencing what everyday life was like in eras past.
-

These immersive experiences beautifully support the curriculum, bringing our history and civics topics to life with vibrant, memorable context.

Looking ahead to next term, excitement is building for our annual PTA Fireworks Display! This is officially our biggest PTA fundraising event of the year, and the vital funds raised go directly toward enhancing learning spaces and purchasing playground equipment for all our children.

We kindly ask for your full support, whether by buying tickets, volunteering to help out on the night, or spreading the word to friends and family. Let's make it our most successful display yet!

Thank you to all our families for your continued support, partnership, and kindness throughout these vibrant weeks.

Wishing everyone a very safe, restful, and happy half-term break!





School Diary

NOVEMBER

2 Back to School - Gates open at 8:35am

3 Parents Appointments 1:30pm - 7pm

5 Applications open for Year Reception 2027

6 PTA Fireworks Spectacular! Gates open 6pm

11 Open Evening for Year R intake 2027 - 7pm - 8pm

12 Year 2 Celebration of the Word 9am

16 Odd Socks Day - start of anti-bullying week

20 Pyjama Day for £1
Year 6 Cake Sale - 3:15pm

24 Open Morning for Year R intake 2027 - 9:30am - 10:30am

DECEMBER

1 Free Vision Screening

7 Yrs 1, 2 and 3 Nativity 2pm

8 Yrs 1, 2 and 3 Nativity 9:15am

10 Year Reception and Nursery Nativity 9:15am
Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

14 Years 4, 5 and 6 Carol Service 2pm

15 Years 4, 5 and 6 Carol Service 9am

18 Break up for Christmas Holidays at 1:30pm

JANUARY

5 Back to School - gates open at 8:35am

12 Little Recyclers Clothing Collection

15 Applications close for Reception 27/28



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Nursery

A Term of Outstanding Growth & Learning

What an absolutely incredible first term of the year in Nursery it has been! We are bursting with pride at how beautifully our youngest learners have settled into school life. Every single child has made excellent progress and shown such wonderful growth already, building up their confidence, independence, and friendships day by day.

Our busy days have been filled with laughter, discovery, and hands-on exploration. Here is a look at what we have been exploring together:

Understanding Our Feelings with The Colour Monster

To support our personal, social, and emotional development, the children have really enjoyed diving into the wonderful book The Colour Monster. This vibrant story has been a fantastic tool for helping the children explore, name, and understand different feelings. They have been using it to practice managing and regulating their emotions, learning how to express themselves safely and look after one another in the classroom.

Autumn Adventures & Seasonal Stories

More recently, our classroom has been transformed by the beautiful colors of our **Autumn topic**! We have been using two delightful stories to anchor our seasonal learning:

- **Pumpkin Soup:** The children loved exploring the themes of friendship, sharing, and teamwork, which sparked lots of fun, messy play and collaborative sorting activities.
- **The Leaf Thief:** This humorous tale helped us talk about the changing seasons, why the leaves fall from the trees, and how the world around us shifts as we head into winter.

Relishing Every Opportunity to Shine

It is wonderful to see how enthusiastically the children embrace their learning every single day. They are truly relishing all their academic and creative opportunities:

- **Maths:** We have been busy sorting, counting, and exploring patterns using natural autumn treasures like acorns, pinecones, and colorful leaves.
- **Singing:** Our classroom is frequently filled with music! The children love learning new rhymes, which is doing wonders for their communication, language, and memory skills.
- **Writing Opportunities:** We have seen fantastic mark-making this term. Whether using paintbrushes, chalks, or pencils, the children are eagerly practicing their fine motor control and building those essential early writing muscles.

Thank you to all our nursery parents for your support during this brilliant first term. We hope you have a fantastic, restful half-term break! These are a few photos to share - with lots more on Tapestry for you to enjoy!





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Reception

What a wonderful past few weeks we have had in Reception!

We have been exploring the season of Autumn, noticing the changes happening around us and using our senses to investigate the sights, sounds, smells and textures of the season.

The children are making fantastic progress in phonics. They have been busy learning new phonemes and are beginning to use these sounds to blend and read simple words. We are so pleased with their enthusiasm and perseverance!

In maths, we have been exploring the numbers 1, 2 and 3. The children have also been developing their subitising skills, using their "fast eyes" to recognise small amounts without needing to count each object individually.













We have also been working hard to develop our gross motor skills. The children have enjoyed pulling tyres outside, which helps to strengthen their shoulders and upper body muscles. Building shoulder strength supports the development of fine motor control and helps children as they begin their writing journey.

In RE, we have been learning about prayer and beginning to understand that we can talk to God in different ways. We have also been finding out about Baptism and why it is a special celebration for Christians.

We are incredibly proud of how well all the children have done during their first half term in Reception. They have settled beautifully into school life, grown in confidence and embraced so many new experiences and learning opportunities. It has been wonderful to see how much they have already achieved. Well done, Reception!

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Year 1

The children have had a wonderful first half term in Year 1. They come in every morning, keen to learn and enthusiastic to build good relationships with their peers. They are proud of what they have achieved so far this term and are now ready for a break.

In Maths, they have been concentrating on addition and subtraction, which they will continue after half term. In Science we have been looking at animals including humans and the children were brilliant at naming the parts of the body - helped by singing Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes and the Skeleton Dance!

In Art, the children completed their clay leaves and painted them, considering the colours of autumn in their designs. In English, we have been looking at some of the books written by Julia Donaldson. The children have really enjoyed using their imaginations to write new characters, settings and adventures for the books. We have finished the term with Room on the Broom and the children loved creating a new gadget based broom for the main character. We are looking forward to more learning adventures after half term.









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Year 2

Year 2 have had an amazing few weeks, working hard to develop their addition and subtraction skills in Maths. They have been learning new concepts and applying their knowledge with growing confidence.

In English, we have been exploring how to write a non-chronological report all about minibeasts. The children have been thinking carefully about constructing sentences using coordinating conjunctions to join two independent clauses. Their handwriting is also coming along really well as they continue to practise and develop their letter formation.

In R.E., the children enjoyed acting out, sequencing and writing the steps of a Baptism. They have reflected on how Baptism welcomes a baby or person into the Church and marks the beginning of their journey in the Christian faith.

In History, we travelled back 60 years to explore how technology has changed over time. The children enjoyed discovering how things were different in the past and developing an appreciation for the technology we have today.

























We also celebrated Black History Month by reading a range of inspiring stories about significant Black individuals from the past and present. We learnt about their lives, achievements and the positive impact they have made on the world. Through these stories, we developed our understanding of Black history, celebrated diversity and recognised the importance of equality, respect and inclusion.Year 2 have worked incredibly hard throughout this half-term and have settled into their learning routines well. I am so proud of their enthusiasm, effort and progress. Keep up the amazing work!!

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Year 3



Year 3 have had a wonderfully busy few weeks, filled with exciting learning and memorable experiences. We have been incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm, hard work, and willingness to embrace new challenges.

One of the highlights was our class assembly, where the children retold the parable of the Good Samaritan. They reminded us all of the importance of being a good neighbour to everyone, showing kindness, compassion, and care regardless of who we meet. The children worked hard to prepare and perform their assembly, sharing this important message with confidence and enthusiasm.

In English, we have been writing non-chronological reports about the human skeleton and muscular system. The children have been using their scientific knowledge to write informative texts, organising facts into clear sections and developing their use of subject-specific vocabulary. It has been wonderful to see them making links between their learning in English and Science.

In History, we have continued exploring our Stone Age topic, discovering how people lived and how their lives changed over time. Our learning was brought to life during a fantastic school trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum, which was undoubtedly the biggest highlight of the past few weeks!









The children had an amazing opportunity to step back in time and experience aspects of life during the Stone Age and Iron Age. Rather than simply reading about the past, they were able to get hands-on and experience some of the activities people would have undertaken to survive. They explored fire-making, butter-churning, hunting, and gathering, developing a much deeper understanding of the skills, hard work, and resourcefulness needed in prehistoric times.

The excitement on the children's faces as they took part in these activities was wonderful to see. Experiencing history first-hand helped them appreciate just how different life was thousands of years ago and gave them a wealth of knowledge and experiences to draw upon in their classroom learning. Despite a busy day full of activities, the children showed fantastic enthusiasm, curiosity, and teamwork throughout the visit.

It has been a brilliant few weeks in Year 3, and we are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved. From sharing an important message of kindness through their assembly to immersing themselves in our History topic, they have demonstrated just how much they can achieve when they work hard and embrace new experiences. I look forward to all the exciting learning still to come!

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Year 4

Liturgical Prayer

We are incredibly proud of Year 4 for their beautiful liturgical prayer, centred around God's invitation to everyone. Drawing on the Gospel story of the Wedding Feast, every child spoke clearly and confidently to share a powerful message about kindness, generosity, welcoming others, and fairness. Through thoughtful reflections and creative work, the children reminded us how we can say "yes" to God's invitation through our everyday words and actions.

English

The children recently completed a unit on non-chronological reports, focusing on extinct animals before researching and creating imaginative reports about animals they invented. Throughout the unit, pupils developed key writing skills, using subheadings to organise information and cohesive paragraphs to group related ideas. They also practiced using commas in a list, expanded noun phrases for detail, and a range of conjunctions and adverbials to improve writing flow.







Maths

In Maths, pupils completed a unit on addition and subtraction. They practiced using formal written methods and mental strategies for large numbers, as well as solving word problems by explaining their mathematical reasoning.

Science Pupils completed their unit on Living Things and Their Habitats. They explored the seven life processes, classified organisms using keys, conducted a local habitat survey, and investigated the environmental impacts of human activity.

RE

In RE, the children completed a unit on Creation and Covenant. They explored the story of Abraham, learning how his faith, hope, and love formed the foundation for Judaism and Christianity, and reflected on how his example applies to their own lives.

Music

The children explored body and tuned percussion in a rainforest-themed unit. They practiced rhythm, melody, and layering to compose and perform a four-part structured piece of music with a partner.

Art

Inspired by Egyptian canopic jars, the children created clay coil pots. They learned key pottery techniques, including rolling clay evenly and using scoring and slip to join pieces securely.

Newsletter 23rd October 2026

Year 4 (Continued)

French

In French, pupils have been practicing basic conversational greetings and asking how others are. They are currently learning numbers so they can share their age in French.

Geography

The class is studying the Campania region in Italy. They are exploring physical landscapes formed by earthquakes and volcanoes, and comparing this region to our local area.

TT Rockstars

Nearly a third of the class has already 'gone green' on TT Rockstars by recalling multiplication facts up to 12x in under 4 seconds! The whole class is making fantastic progress—remember that practicing for 3 minutes a day is the key to success.

Chiltern Open Air Museum

Yesterday, Year 4 had an amazing time visiting the Chiltern Open Air Museum! The children were fully engaged in hands-on Stone Age and Iron Age workshops. They experienced Stone Age life by hunting with an atlatl (spear thrower) built shelters using animal skins and branches, and practiced building fires. In the Iron Age we churned our own butter with twig whisks, crafted clay drinking pots, ground flour and made flatbread. It was a fantastic day of immersive learning and fun!










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Year 5

What a fantastic month of learning we have had in Year 5! The children have worked incredibly hard across all subjects and have shown great enthusiasm, resilience and curiosity in their learning.

English

This month, we have been combining our learning in English and Science as we begin preparing to write a non-chronological report about space. The children have impressed us with their excellent knowledge and understanding of our Earth and Space topic, confidently discussing planets, the Solar System and other fascinating facts. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm shine through in class discussions and research activities.

Alongside this, we have continued developing our grammar skills. We have consolidated our understanding of subjects and verbs and have been focusing on sentence structure. The children have begun exploring ways to vary and extend their sentences to make their writing more engaging and effective. We look forward to seeing these skills applied in their upcoming reports.

Mathematics

In Maths, we have focused on addition and subtraction, using both formal written methods and column methods accurately and efficiently. The children have worked hard to develop confidence when solving calculations and checking the reasonableness of their answers.

We have also been applying these skills to increasingly challenging word problems. The children have enjoyed tackling multi-step questions that require careful reading, reasoning and perseverance. It has been fantastic to see them explain their thinking and use their mathematical knowledge in a variety of contexts.







Geography

Our Geography learning has centred around rivers. The children particularly enjoyed studying our local river, The Cut, and conducting fieldwork to learn more about its features. We compared our findings with those of the River Trent, helping us understand how rivers can differ depending on their location and characteristics.

The children collected data, analysed information and presented their findings through a variety of graphs and charts. They demonstrated excellent geographical enquiry skills and thoroughly enjoyed becoming river investigators!

Religious Education

In RE, we have been exploring the Ten Commandments and Jesus' Greatest Commandment to love God and love our neighbour. We have considered how these teachings link closely with Catholic Social Teaching and the importance of serving the common good.

The children have engaged thoughtfully in discussions and reflections, considering how our actions can positively impact those around us. It has been wonderful to see them make meaningful connections between their faith and everyday life, demonstrating compassion, kindness and a growing understanding of their responsibilities as members of our school and wider community.

Newsletter 23rd October 2026

Year 6

An unforgettable visit to the Houses of Parliament.

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard in the build-up to our exciting visit to the Houses of Parliament, and what a memorable experience it turned out to be!

In History, we have been exploring the fascinating topic of Crime and Punishment through the ages, from Tudor times through to the Victorian era. The children have enjoyed comparing how laws and punishments have changed over time and considering how crime is dealt with in Britain today. They have engaged brilliantly in thought-provoking discussions, sharing their opinions about fairness, justice and how our laws help to keep society safe.

In English, we have also been studying outlaws and have recently completed our own non-chronological reports on famous outlaws. The children researched their subjects and even created their own fictional outlaws to write about! This linked perfectly with our visit, giving the children an opportunity to explore the real-life world of law, justice and democracy.



During our visit to Parliament, we were incredibly fortunate to sit in the galleries and watch live debates in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The children gained a valuable insight into how Parliament works, how MPs are elected, how members of the House of Lords are appointed for their expertise, and how a Bill can progress through Parliament to become law. We then took part in an engaging educational workshop, where the children had the opportunity to experience democracy first-hand by taking part in a debate of their own. It was wonderful to see them listening carefully, expressing their views and considering different perspectives.

One of the highlights of the day was meeting our local MP, Peter Swallow, who kindly made a special visit to meet us. The children asked a range of insightful questions, demonstrating their curiosity and maturity, some of which even took him by surprise! We are extremely grateful to Peter for taking the time to answer their questions so openly and honestly.

It was particularly fitting that Peter was recently involved in a discussion about citizenship and democracy in schools, with ideas being explored for future implementation. He kindly complimented the children, recognising that by visiting Parliament, learning about democracy and engaging in meaningful discussions, they were already putting these important values into practice.

Newsletter 23rd October 2026

Year 6 (Continued)

We also had the privilege of standing in Westminster Hall, where Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II lay in state in September 2022. It was a truly special moment to stand in such a historic place and reflect on its significance.
Throughout the entire visit, the children represented our school beautifully. They were respectful, attentive, enthusiastic and curious, and we could not have been prouder of them.
It was a wonderful day that brought our learning to life and gave the children a deeper understanding of how our country is governed. Who knows? Perhaps one day, one of our Year 6 pupils will return to Parliament as an MP!
A huge well done to Year 6 for making this such a special and memorable experience. You were fantastic ambassadors for our school!











Newsletter 23rd October 2026

Amazon Wish List



We would like to say a huge thank you to all parents / carers who have made such generous donations to our school - we are so grateful for your kindness and support.

There's still time to donate if you wish!
https://amzn.eu/1hzlgx8.

School Council: Small Changes, Big Difference!

Our School Council have been thinking about some simple ways we can all help to make our school more environmentally friendly.

This term, we would like to focus on three areas;

Composting our food waste
We want to make sure that suitable food scraps go into the compost rather than the general waste bin. Please encourage children to only bring the amount of food they are likely to eat and to put any compostable left overs in the correct bin.

Reducing plastic in lunch boxes
We would like to reduce the amount of single-use plastic used in packed lunches. Where possible, please consider using reusable tubs and containers instead of cling film, plastic food bags and other single use wrapping. These small changes can make a big difference!

Looking after our glue sticks and whiteboard pens
Our school council has also noticed that lots of glue sticks and whiteboard pens are being wasted because their lids are left off or lost. We are trying to remind each other in class to put the lids back on carefully after using them so that they last longer.

These may seem like small things, but when we all work together, small changes can make a big difference!
Thank you for supporting our School Council and helping us to look after our school and our planet!

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Recent Sporting Events













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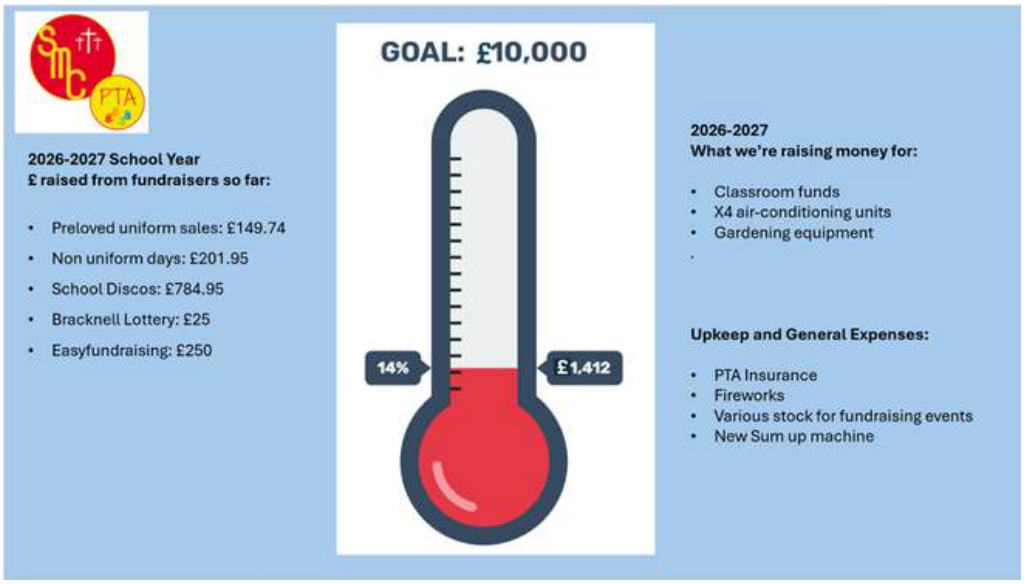
Keep up to date with the PTA:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/Smcpta

https://www.instagram.com/pta_smc



PROFIT RAISED YEAR-TO-DATE:



How to help us raise funds:

Win up to £25,000

If you are into trying your luck and hoping to win a lottery, please support our school by buying your tickets through this link: https://www.bracknellforestlottery.co.uk/support/st-margaret-clitherow-catholic-primary-school-

amazon.co.uk John Lewis ebay Booking.com Argos Expedia.co.uk next DEBENHAMS M&S Sainsbury's ASOS moonpig JUST EAT SCREWFIX Viking Boden GAP sky trainline

easyfundraising partners with over 7,500 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmcpta

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Announcing:



PTA events coming up:

Tuesday 3rd November

Return Xmas4 schools Form



Friday 6th November: PTA Fireworks



Volunteer to help with the Fireworks:

https://volunteersignup.org/L9M4P

Purchase tickets for the Fireworks:

https://st-margaret-clitherow-pta.sumupstore.com/product/smc-pta-fireworks-2026

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Friday 20th November

Non uniform (Pyjama) day



Year 6 Bake Sale



Date tbc:

Christmas Hamper donations and Raffle



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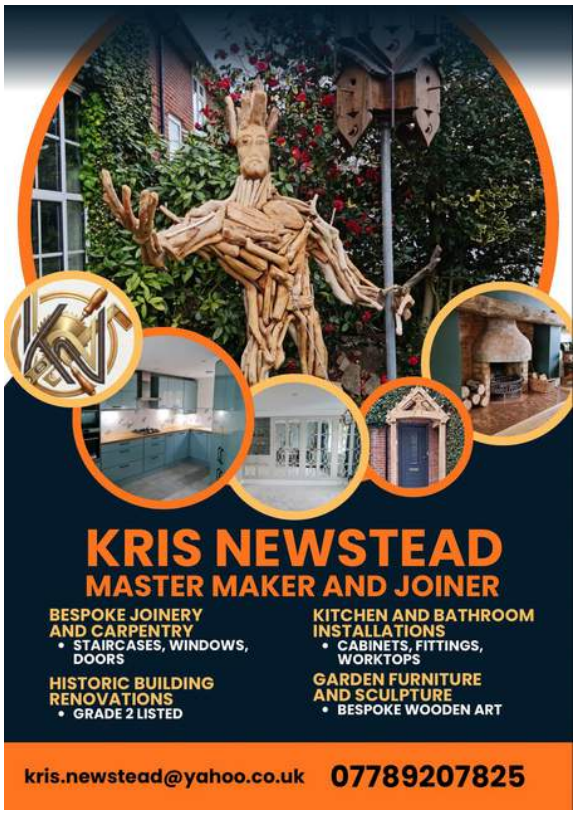
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Other Information

Deadline for Year 6 parents / carers to apply for Year 7 September 2027 is 31st October.



Are you in need of a highly recommended and skilled carpenter? Please contact former Dad, Kris Newstead - details below.





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Other Information

¡Hola! A wonderful first half term of Spanish at St Margaret!

Our Spanish Club has had a brilliant start this half term! The children have been enjoying discovering Spanish through songs, games and fun activities. Our *Hola Song* has been a particular favourite, helping everyone practise greetings like *Hola, ¿Cómo te llamas?* and *¿Cómo estás?* We've also been learning to express our feelings with words such as *bien, muy bien, mal* and *triste*, alongside exploring colours and numbers.

Of course, no Spanish club would be complete without our lovely teddy, Pancho, who only speaks Spanish! This half term, the children have also met his baby, Panchito, who now gets to go home with one child each week to enjoy a little Spanish adventure together. We're so proud of all the children's enthusiasm and can't wait for more Spanish fun next half term!

¡Muy bien, everyone!



Kidslingo

GYMFINITY KIDS

Bracknell October Half-Term

Dear Parent,

We have so much fun in store for your child this October half-term! Scan the QR code to book your workshop or holiday camp space online.

BRACKNELL OCTOBER WORKSHOPS

Walkover Workshop
DATE: Monday 26th October TIME: 1pm – 3pm COST: £25
A chance for beginner & intermediate gymnasts to work on and improve their forwards and backwards walkovers. Open to all ages.

Squad Camp (Full Day)
DATE: Monday 26th October TIME: 9am – 3.30pm COST: £40
In this full day of squad camp, squad gymnasts will work on new drills and practice skills before or after their competitions. Book via your club reception or info@gymfinitykids.com

Halloween Party
DATE: Tuesday 27th October TIME: 12.30pm – 2.30pm COST: £25
Join us for our Halloween Party - expect spider web obstacle courses, mummy races, glow in the dark scavenger hunt & skill time! PLUS pizza for everyone. Costumes are welcome as long as they are gym-safe. Open to ages 4+ and BRING A FRIEND FOR FREE! Book via your club reception or info@gymfinitykids.com

Gymnastics Award Intensive Workshop: Level 1-4
DATE: Wednesday 28th October TIME: 1pm – 3pm COST: £20

Gymnastics Award Intensive Workshop: Level 5+
DATE: Wednesday 28th October TIME: 1pm – 3pm COST: £20

Ninja Award Intensive Workshop: Level 1-4
DATE: Friday 30th October TIME: 1pm – 3pm COST: £20

Ninja Award Intensive Workshop: Level 5+
DATE: Friday 30th October TIME: 1pm – 3pm COST: £20

October Holiday Camps:
For those aged 5+, our Halloween-themed camps are varied and action-packed! From eerie obstacle courses to frightfully fun gymnastics/ninja activities and Halloween crafts, every session is bursting with creativity and high energy.

For those aged 8+ who wish to focus more on gymnastics and ninja, they can book into our non-themed camp where they will spend more time on skills and techniques on the gym floor.

Gymfinity Kids CLUBS | gymfinitykids.com

More Than Just a Party... It's an All-Star Experience!

PRIME ALL-STAR FOOTBALL PARTIES

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FOOTBALL PARTIES MADE FOR ALL-STARS!

GIVE YOUR CHILD A BIRTHDAY THEY'LL NEVER FORGET!

PLAY CELEBRATE BE A STAR

- FUN FOOTBALL GAMES & CHALLENGES
- SKILLS COMPETITIONS
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- MEDALS & PRIZES
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BOOK YOUR PARTY TODAY!

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PLAY • CELEBRATE • BE A STAR

Let's Play

FUN | INCLUSIVE | EDUCATIONAL

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN DAYS

SWIMMING, MULTI-SPORTS, SOFT PLAY, ARTS & CRAFTS, BOUNCY CASTLE, PERFORMING ARTS, GAMING, LASER TAG, NERF WARS, LEGO BUILDING & MUCH MORE!

OPEN EVERY SCHOOL HOLIDAY

Bracknell Leisure Centre
Bagshot Road, Bracknell, RG12 9SE
9.00am – 4.00pm
Early drop off from 8am, late pick-up until 6pm

OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 5 (SCHOOL YEAR 1) - 12

FROM £29.50 PER DAY!

Discounts for siblings - please see booking page for details.

We accept Childcare Vouchers, Tax-Free Childcare & we are OFSTED registered!

Please bring: Lunch, Snacks, Waterproof Clothing & a Refillable Drinks Bottle.

Scan the QR code for more information, call 01344 508008 or email info@lets-play.org.uk
Book online: www.lets-play.org.uk

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Other Information

Supporting Your Children Workshops 2026 / 27

To book a space email Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

All sessions unless stated otherwise **take place at The Bracknell Open Learning Centre**

Once you have completed an enrolment form your space will be confirmed

Please only book if you are ***going to be able to attend*** to avoid other parents missing out

2-week First Steps Toolkit - (for primary aged children) ***Guiding Children Through Anxious Thoughts and Emotional Challenges*** Week 1 – *parent only* • Discuss what happens when are faced with challenges. • Look at techniques to support your child. • Share ideas with the view of encouraging each other Week 2 - *Parent and child (check with school for children to come for the 2nd session)* • Design support tools around your family. • Spend quality time supporting your children. • Produce resources to use at home.	
You will be expected to attend both sessions. **Thursday 5th November 2026 (Parents only)** **Thursday 12th November 2026 (Parent and child for whole session)**	**12.45 -2.45** **12.45 - 2.45**

Each of the following courses is a **standalone 2-hour session,** is universal (not specific for SEND), and is for the adults supporting **not** the children themselves so **please arrange childcare if needed**

Supporting Children to Overcome Anxious Thoughts / Worries Exploring how anxiety affects primary aged children using simple, effective techniques to support them to overcome their Anxious Thoughts & Worries.	
Monday 16th November 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 18th January 2027	9.30 – 11.30 am
Thursday 25th February 2027	6.30 - 8.30 pm
Tuesday 18th May 2027	9.30 - 11.30 am
Wednesday 23rd June 2027	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way Supporting parents of primary aged children develop positive behaviour strategies and handle challenging behaviours with confidence and care.	
Thursday 5th November 2026	**6.30 – 8.30 pm**
Monday 11th January 2027	**6.30 - 8.30 pm**
Tuesday 23rd February 2027	**9.30 - 11.30 am**
Thursday 13th May 2027	**6.30 - 8.30 pm**
Parenting your pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 10 – 13) An insight into parenting, looking at positive behaviour strategies, different ways to strengthen communication / connection with your pre-teen child.	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	
Parenting your teen in a Positive Way (aged 13 – 16) A session focused on using positive approaches to guide teenage behaviour, building stronger communication and connection during the teen years.	

Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	
Encouraging Resilience – Keep Calm and Bounce Back Gain practical tips, leaving you inspired & equipped to help primary aged children bounce back stronger; no matter what life throws at them	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	
Transition to secondary school Gain practical tips, share experiences, and learn how to support your child through the exciting, sometimes challenging transition to secondary school.	
Monday 5th July 2027	6.30 - 8.30 pm
Transition: Reception to Year 1 and beyond The move from Yr R to 1 is a big step in your child's learning journey. Session helps parents understand what the transition involves and how to support.	
Thursday 1st July 2027	6.30 - 8.30 pm
A healthy night's sleep Support for parents of primary aged children to gain practical tips to help children build healthy, lasting sleep habits	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	6.30 - 8.30 pm
Reducing Sibling Rivalry A supportive session giving parents of primary aged children the tools to strengthen sibling bonds and create a calm, connected family environment.	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	
Family Dynamics Family life comes in many forms for primary aged children. Session offers practical guidance navigating varying dynamics.	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	

Newsletter 23rd October 2026

Other Information

Please see link below for Easthampstead Park's Christmas Brochure...
https://heyzine.com/flip-book/easthampstead-park-christmas-brochure

Guide Your Children Through Anxious Thoughts and Emotional Challenges

if you would like to book a space, please email Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

2-week First Steps Toolkit - (for primary aged children) Week 1 – *parent only* • Discuss what happens when are faced with challenges. • Look at techniques to support your child. • Share ideas with the view of encouraging each other Week 2 - *Parent and child (check with school for children to come for the 2nd session)* • Design support tools around your family. • Spend quality time supporting your children. • Produce resources to use at home.	
You will be expected to attend both sessions at the ***Bracknell Open Learning Centre*** **Thursday 5th November 2026 (Parents only)** **Thursday 12th November 2026 (Parent and child for whole session)**	**12.45 -2.45** **12.45 - 2.45**

What's on October Half Term in Bracknell:-

https://www.bracknellrocks.co.uk/things-to-do/half-term-in-bracknell

GEMS Worskhops

We're excited to announce that more GEMS workshops are now available to book for the autumn term!
Our latest additions include:
Our popular 3-Part Autism Course, covering:

- Understanding autism
- Sensory differences, anxiety and behaviour
- Practical strategies to support your child
- An overview of the assessment process
- Signposting to further support and resources

Sleep and Autism & ADHD, exploring:

- Children's sleep cycles and sleep needs
- Common reasons for difficulties settling and night waking
- Practical strategies to reduce stress around sleep
- Tips to help your child settle to sleep and stay asleep

You can view all of our upcoming workshops and book your place here:
https://www.gems4health.com/workshops/

GEMS
Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire

Helpline : 0800 999 1342
(Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)